Entry of foreign universities for imparting skills

†230. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of skilled workers at international level can be sorted out by creating skill among Indian youth;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether foreign universities will be allowed to enter the country for this; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Due to 'demographic dividend' that India has in terms of availability of human resources, demand for Indian skilled professionals is likely in foreign countries. Government does not maintain information about the shortage and requirement of such professionals in other countries.

(c) and (d) A legislative proposal to regulate the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions in the country is under consideration of the Government.

National Literacy Mission in low female literacy districts

231. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRTYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently launched National Literacy Mission with a special focus on 365 districts which have low female literacy level;

(b) if so, the parameters for identifying districts in the country where low female literacy levels exist;

(c) whether the gap of literacy levels in rural and urban areas are widening day by day; and

(d) if so, the new initiatives that would be taken to bridge the gap of rural and urban literacy levels particularly amongst females?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. Saakshar Bharat, the new variant of National Literacy Mission, has been launched recently.

(b) Adult female literacy rate of 50% or below, as per census 2001, has been taken as the parameter for identifying the districts for coverage under the programme.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi